

**WEED CONTROL BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2015 – 10:00 AM**

1. MEETING TO ORDER

A meeting of the Cass County Weed Control Board was called to order at 10:00 AM on Monday, February 9, 2015, in the Weed Control Office building with the following members present: Clayton Brennan, Ken Hagen, Chris Murch, and Larry Wilcox. Also present were John Kringler, Cass County Extension Agent; and Stanley Wolf, Cass County Weed Control Officer.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION, passed

Mr. Murch moved and Mr. Hagen seconded to approve the meeting minutes from January 12, 2015. Motion carried.

3. AGENDA, Order approved

Mr. Wolf said he would like to add Maple River Dam Project; and Lower Sheyenne Project for discussion under the New Business agenda item.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Brennan moved and Mr. Hagen seconded to approve the order of the agenda with the addition of Maple River Dam Project; and Lower Sheyenne Project under the New Business agenda item. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Mr. Wolf said there were two expenditures for Fargo Tractor & Equipment, Inc. in January; \$11,215.00 was for the Kubota, and \$870.74 was for the canopy and the labor charged to transfer equipment from the old unit.

The 2014 Weed Control budget came in under budget by \$9,161.42.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Hagen moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the 2014 Weed Control Balance Sheet and bills for January as presented. Motion carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

NIASMA Membership

Mr. Wolf said the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) is an international organization that provides education, regulatory directions, professional improvement, and environmental awareness to preserve and protect natural resources from the degrading impacts of invasive species. The 2015 membership dues are \$75.00.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Brennan moved and Mr. Murch seconded to approve \$75.00 to be paid to the North American Species Management Association for 2015 dues. Motion carried.

Palmer Amaranth

Mr. Wolf said Palmer amaranth is a weed that has primarily been a concern only in southern states. In recent years it has been steadily moving north and has reached northern South Dakota. The weed is resistant to four classes of herbicide,

and in the South it has only taken a few years of infestation for some fields to become unharvestable. In early stages, Palmer amaranth closely resembles redroot pigweed and waterhemp, making early identification more difficult.

Mr. Wilcox asked if a procedure is in place if Palmer amaranth is identified in Cass County. Mr. Kringler said the Weed Board and Extension office should be notified; state specialists will then be notified in turn. The Extension office is working on an early detection program and the education of weed boards and crop consultants.

Mr. Wilcox asked if Palmer amaranth has been named as an invasive weed in North Dakota. Mr. Wolf said it has not been added to the noxious weed list at this time. Mr. Murch asked if the Weed Board has the authority to add it to the list for Cass County. Mr. Wolf said this board could add it to the list for Cass County; thereafter, it would follow the correct procedural process, which includes notifying the North Dakota Ag Commissioner. Mr. Kringler said he does not think Palmer amaranth needs to be added to the list at this time, but perhaps it will be added next year when more information on its spread and proximity is known.

Township Officer Letter

Mr. Wolf said every year he sends a letter to all township officials in Cass County. The letter includes a map of the township's GPS weed spray map. This year Mr. Wolf will also include information on several weeds impacting the county, including information on Palmer amaranth, and a discussion on the importance of purchasing road gravel from inspected pit operations.

Maple River Dam Project

Mr. Wolf said he worked with the Water Resource District to clean up a water pool area in Highland Township. A contractor was hired to clean up trees, bulldoze the area, and burn the pile. The area was also scraped down so no tree saplings remain. Mr. Wolf will return to the site to remove common tansy seed heads along a fence line and to spray the area.

The Water Resource District would like to apply for Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) funds to cost share a portion of the spraying Mr. Wolf does. Mr. Wilcox asked if another government agency is eligible to receive county LAP assistance. Mr. Wolf said he will forward the question to the States Attorney office.

Lower Sheyenne Project

Mr. Wolf said the five participating counties in the lower Sheyenne project for purple loosestrife control have met and discussed the sale of two Argo Amphibious vehicles. The vehicles will be put up for auction on a public surplus website, and the proceeds will go back into the project's funds to be available for future purple loosestrife projects. Other equipment previously purchased for the project will not be sold. Mr. Wolf will report back to the board about the sales response for the vehicles.

6. MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Wolf said he received correspondence from Dr. F. Adan Akyuz acknowledging and showing appreciation for the \$500 grant from the Cass County Weed Control Board to be used in the upkeep and maintenance of the northeast Cass North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) station.

Mr. Wolf has ordered the Outback GPS system and Datalogger for the Honda sprayer. The vendor will put his own GPS chip into the Datalogger, similar to a chip used in cell phones, so that the Datalogger will always remain compatible with its GPS system. The vendor will also update the Datalogger purchased last year so both units will be identical. This will eliminate the cabling used between the Datalogger and Outback GPS system. The Outback GPS system will continue to be used for guidance purposes.

Mr. Wolf has continued to attend weekly legislative updates with the Cass County Commission and department heads. There are no new legislative updates. There are still concerns with Section 4.1-47.14 of Senate Bill 2144 and the strikeout of the word "noxious" with the addition of the words "or grass." This bill is still in committee.

The women's restroom in the Weed Control building has now been updated. As with the men's restroom update, the Cass County Buildings and Grounds department did the work for the cost of material.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| Best of the West Crop Seminar | February 4, Moorhead |
| NDWCA Poster Winner Presentation | February, Napoleon |
| North Dakota Winter Show | March 3-8, Valley City |
| NDWCA Board Meeting | March, Mandan |

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Minutes prepared by Brielle Edwards, Principal Secretary